



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
31 JANUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Chief of State Thieu continues to act very much like a candidate. Last night he threw a reception for 200 newsmen and, speaking without notes, promised to shorten the war, bring peace and prosperity, and generally square things away. He stressed that the sacking of General Co was a move against corruption.

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2. Communist China

Recent letters from the mainland convey some idea of the fear and confusion gripping China.

The view from Peking may not be any less murky. Editorials are acknowledging divisions in the pro-Mao ranks and urging the "revolutionaries" not to attack each other.

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3. Rhodesia

It is too early for the UN's mandatory sanctions to have affected Rhodesia's imports and exports. A large number of countries say they will enforce the UN action and the British appear determined to track down violators. We believe, however, that evasions will be widespread, largely because of the failure of South Africa and Portugal to cooperate, and that the sanctions will not hurt Rhodesia very much.

4. Malta

In a world where troops of a colonial power are usually urged to get out of a former colony within hours of that colony's independence, Malta stands unique.

The Maltese, whose economy is centered almost entirely on the British forces based on the island, are seething over London's plans to reduce those forces. To cap this topsy-turvy situation, the Maltese are now threatening to throw the British off the island--unless they promise to stay in full force.

5. El Salvador

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